available. I want to know whether the information is not available with the Government or with the Hon'ble Minister ? It is high time that he should collect the information. I would like to know what the Hon'ble Minister exectly means ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ. ಪ್ರಭಾಕರ್.—ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಸಿಟಿ ಯಾವಾಗ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದೆ ಉಳಿದ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ನನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಇದೆ.

MR. SPEAKER.—I will with hold this question.

Royalty charged for Shahabad Stones

195 SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR (Chitapur).—Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the rate of royalty charged in respect of Shahabad Stones in parts of Gulbarga District held under quarry lease and mining lease in the year 1970–71 ;

(i) Quarry Leases ;

(ii) Mining Leases ;

(*b*) the rate of royalty enhanced in respect of Shahabad Stones held under quarry lease and mining lease (Particulars regarding the date of enhancement and the reasons for enhancement be furnished) ;

(*c*) whether the Government has received any representations from quarry lease holders from Gulbarga District for reducing the rate of royalty ;

(*d*) whether the Government is considering to reduce the rate of royalty to the quarry lease holders in Gulbarga District ?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) The rates of royalty on Shahabad Stones in Gulbarga District in respect of quarry leases and Mininig Leases in the year 1970–71 are as detailed below :—

Rs, 1.25 per 100 sft. or Rs. 1.50 per tonne.

Rs. 1.00 per 100 sft. or 5 per cent of the sale value at the pits mouth of the said mineral dispatched whichever is greater amount, subject to the royalty in any case being not less than a fixed amount specified in each lease deed.

(*b*) The following are the revised rates of royalty :—

(i) Quarry Leases :

Rs. 3 per 100 sft. of Shahabad stone from 26th May 1976.

The above rate of royalty in respect of minor minerals (Quarry Lease) was enhanced by State Government from Rs. 1–25 per 100 sft.

Vide Notification No. CI 350 EMM 75 dated 21st May 1976 considering the prevailing market conditions and other factors.

(ii) 2·50 per tonne of Limestone w.e.f. 1st April 1975.

The royalty on mining leases has been enhanced by the Government of India *Vide* their Notification dated 31st March 1975 in respect of Limestone (Mining Leases), in exercise of the powers vested in them as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Dev.) Act.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR:—May I know the reason for raising the rate of royalty from Rs. 1.25 per 100 c.ft. to Rs. 3?

†SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—The Government of India have enhanced the rate to Rs. 2.50 per tonne from 31st March 1975, and therefore we had to raise it to Rs.3.

SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR:—Our Government was kind enough to remove the restriction of 2 Kms. in order to held the quarry lease holders who are financially not sound and whose number is small. The rate for mining lease holders, who are rich, is less. Will the Government consider reducing the rate to quarry lease holders?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS:—This does not depend upon the financial backing, because at one stage the capitalists were monopolising these licences. The hon.members of that area represented to the Government and we took a decision to give it to smaller people who would make some profit and make a living out of it. The hon. member forgets the rate at which they sell. The selling rate has also been increased. It is not as if they are selling at the rate which was prevailing in 1971-72. So, it is not correct to say that the rate that is being charged is more. Let the hon. member tell me whether they are selling the stone at the same rate at which they were selling 10 years back, and if that is so, I will reduce the rate, Since the Government of India have enhanced the rate, we have raised it. If there is any other matter, let the hon. member write to me and I will request the Director to look into it.

SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR.—Whether the Government will consider to reduce the rate of small lease holders on par with mining owners as the rates are discriminatory?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—The Hon. member had not mentioned about the discrimination in the question, he has raised it afresh. Since he has brought it as a fresh point, I shall look into it.

MR. SPEAKER.—Now Question hour is over.